

**CLARK COUNTY
CLEAN WATER COMMISSION
Meeting Notes**

Wednesday, September 19, 2001
6:00 – 9:00 PM
Clark County Public Works Department
Conference Room
4700 NE 78th Street
Vancouver, Washington

Call to Order

Roll Call:

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Present

Robbie Agard, Willie Bourlet, Cal Ek, Dana Kemper, Mary Martin, Susan Rasmussen, Don Steinke, Art Stubbs and Peter Tuck

Clark County Public Works Staff

Kelli Frost, Earl Rowell and Rod Swanson

Guest

Gary Bock, WSU Cooperative Extension

Audience

Virginia VanBreeman

Introduction

The members of the Clark County Clean Water Commission, Clark County staff, and audience, were introduced. Chair, Commissioner Kemper, then called the meeting to order.

Agenda and material review

The material for tonight's meeting include:

1. 9/19/01 Clark County Clean Water Commission meeting Agenda;
- 2A. 9/05/01 Clark County Clean Water Commission meeting notes;
- 2B. 9/05/01 Clark County Clean Water Commission work session notes;
3. Motions passed to date 2001;
4. Letter dated 9/17/01 from Mark Erikson, attorney at law, to Bronson Potter, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, regarding, Memorandum of Opinion – Uselman v. Clark County;
- 4B. Article from the Columbian dated, September 19, 2001, entitled Judge says stormwater fees met standards;
5. Monitoring and Evaluation Program Element (Element 203 in fund 4420 and grant projects in Fund 1020)
6. Salmon Creek Main Stem and Tributary Data From Clark Public Utilities and Clark County;
- 7A. Draft – Clark County Clean Water Commission Program Planning Overview;
- 7B. Draft – Clark County Clean Water Commission Recommended Incentive Program; and
- 7C. Draft – Clark County Clean Water Program Evaluation Checklist

9/05/01 notes

The notes from the 9/05/01 Clark County Clean Water Commission meeting were approved as written.

8/15/01 notes correction

Mr. Agard asked for a clarification on an amendment that was reflected on the 8/15/01 notes, which states:

Motion as amended 2001-0815-12: To accept the numbers as proposed on the sheet (Summary of findings for Proposed Incentive No. 1, handed out at the 8/15/01 meeting) with the 13%, 33% for water quality. 33% and 66% for the retention and detention numbers and that they get applied to a 75% percent of the total reduction of the fee. 75% is the maximum allowed.

As corrected it should read: Motion 2001-0815-12, as stated by Mr. Tuck: To accept the numbers as proposed on the sheet (Summary of findings for Proposed Incentive No. 1, handed out at the 8/15/01 meeting) with the 13%, 33% for water quality. 33% and 66% for the retention and detention numbers and that they get applied to a 75% percent of the total reduction of the fee. 75% is the maximum allowed.

In the future the Clean Water Commission notes will reflect who stated each motion and amendment.

Updates/Communications from the public/media/agencies

Clean Water Fee lawsuit

Mr. Rowell discussed the lawsuit filed by plaintiffs Uselman and Mielke, in which Superior Court Judge Diane Woolard said the \$33.00 annual fee is fairly charged to property owners who live in unincorporated Clark County. Judge Woolard determined that the fee was not an unconstitutional tax as claimed by plaintiffs Uselman and Mielke. At this point the plaintiffs have the option of appealing Judge Woolard's decision to the state Court of Appeals.

Clean Water Fund Audit

On the September 28, 2001 the County Auditor will begin reviewing with Public Works staff, Clean Water Fund, 4420. The complete audit could take a few months.

Mr. Bourlet asked for a copy of the report from the auditor once it has been completed.

Clean Water Fee Payment update

Mr. Rowell explained that the County Treasurer's office sent out over 3000 clean water fee delinquent letter to customers who have not paid their clean water fee. If the accounts are not paid by the end of October 2001, they will go to a collection agency.

Mrs. Rasmussen: How many of those customers are refusing to pay their bill?

Mr. Rowell: There is no way to determine an exact number at this time. It's 3000 or less.

Public Outreach Event

Mrs. Rasmussen: Where we represented at the event in La Center last night?

Mr. Bock: I was there representing the Watershed Stewards Program.

Mrs. Rasmussen: Do you think your message was received better last night or at the fair?

Mr. Bock: It was about the same.

Mr. Kemper: How many people were at the event?

Mr. Bock: They predicted up to 800 people, I saw about 200 people.

Public Input

Ms. VanBreen: There were lots of agencies at the event in La Center last night. There were many activities for families and children it was fun.

Monitoring Programs

Mr. Swanson talked about the County's various monitoring and evaluation programs for example:
A storm-mapping program in which Mr. Szwaya mapped all the county roads that have ditches which outfall into streams.

Another program involves Maintenance and Operations staffs who are inspecting manhole catch basins and mapping them into the storm sewer database. We are hoping they will get the East side of the county done this year.

Mr. Bourlet: How do you distinguish between a ditch flowing into a river and a pipe flowing into a river?

Mr. Swanson: Any conveyance that we own and operate is a storm sewer.

Mr. Swanson: The NPDES permit covers anything we own and operate.

Mr. Agard: How long before we can have a complete map.

Mr. Swanson: We hope to have a map done by the summer of 2002.

Mr. Bourlet: Do you plan to categorize outfalls?

Mr. Swanson: The NPDES permit categorizes major and minor outfalls. We already have a system to prioritize or rank storm sewer systems/outfalls based on land use.

Mr. Stubbs: Does the county manage any drywells?

Mr. Swanson: We have maybe 1000 of them, previously there were several thousand in areas annexed into Vancouver in 1997.

Mr. Swanson: As a part of establishing our long-term monitoring program, we monitor streams. First we identify the stream reach and set up a cross section of a channel so we know what it looked like in 2001. We will then describe and rank the stream. We collect macro invertebrate samples and send them to a lab because that is a good indication of the health of the stream. We plan to perform monthly checks on some of the streams.

Mr. Agard: Have you talked to the USGS or BPA regarding their monitors?

Mr. Swanson: We know about the active and inactive USGS stream gauges and the US Army Corps of Engineers currently inactive crest gauges. We plan to review all of the Corps crest gauges and decide which ones that will be of use to us. Then we will reactivate certain ones.

Mr. Bourlet: How many crest gauges do you plan to put in?

Mr. Swanson: We plan to put one in all our long-term projects.

Mr. Agard: What do crest gauges and stream flow gauges have to do with Clean Water?

Mr. Swanson: Excess flow from a storm sewer is considered to be a pollutant, which will degrade a stream. Also, we need detailed flow information to develop hydrologic models, plan capital projects and do stormwater management.

Mr. Kemper: How are we doing in getting information from other agencies?

Mr. Rowell: We are still gathering and processing information. Would the Clean Water Commissioner be interested in having representatives from other agencies address this group to talk about their monitoring programs?

Mrs. Rasmussen: We talked from a woman at WSU who was going to get some educators together and they were going to start testing some sites are there any updates on this program?

Mr. Bock: That would be Carrie Kraten, who was working on a Nature Mapping web site, which is run by the DOE.

Mr. Kemper: This Commission would like to have other agencies give us a presentation on their programs.

Watershed Stewards Presentation

Mr. Bock provided the Clean Water Commissioners with the Watershed Stewards Program 2001 Second Quarter Report. The Watershed Stewards have participated in a variety of restoration projects, and events like the Clark County Fair. Many people are unavailable to take a fifty hour class to become a watershed stewards, but are interested participating in volunteer projects. I have developed a database in which I can notify these people and the Watershed Stewards of various volunteer projects they may want to participate in. If any Clean Water Commissioners are interested in being on this list please let me know.

Mr. Agard: Do you have an advisory committee?

Mr. Bock: Yes there is an advisory committee.

Mr. Agard: I'd like to see someone from the Clean Water Commission on that advisory committee.

Mr. Bock: I would also like someone from this Commission on the advisory committee.

Mr. Tuck: Who is on the board?

Mr. Bock: Dave Howard, Washington Department of Ecology; Cindy Meats, Clark County Public Works; Doug Steinbarger, chair of WSU extension; and Tom Newman, a professional working in the environmental field and a past watershed steward graduate.

Mr. Ek: I'd like to nominate Mr. Agard because he has had a great deal of experience in advisory Committees.

Mr. Agard: My plate is too full, I'd like to see someone else volunteer.

Mrs. Martin: I would like to nominate Mrs. Rasmussen.

Mrs. Rasmussen will follow up with Mr. Bock on being on the Watershed Stewards Advisory Committee.

Mr. Agard: How much money do we give to the watershed stewards each year?

Mr. Rowell: Approximately ~\$55,000 in 2001 and ~\$70,000 in 2002.

Mr. Agard: How many people do you foresee completing the watershed stewards program next year?

Mr. Bock: Approximately 30-35 people.

Mrs. Rasmussen: What is the best way to attract more people to your program?

Mr. Bock: Community outreach events and education are an excellent way to attract people.

Mr. Tuck: How many people can become watershed stewards during one year?

Mr. Bock: I would prefer to keep it at 45 people per year. The greatest results come from the number of people that the watershed stewards impact.

Mr. Tuck: Do you find that the previous graduates from the watershed stewards program keep in contact and volunteer for different projects year to year?

Mr. Bock: I've only been around one year, so it's too early for me to tell, so far there hasn't been a drop off in volunteers.

Next Meeting

The next Clark County Clean Water Commission meeting will be held on, Wednesday, October 3rd, 2001. Cindy Meats will update education related activities. Also attending will be Bud Cave from Public Works and Operations to provide an update on Maintenance and Operations activities.

Adjourn

Mr. Kemper adjourned the Clean Water Commission meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Looking Ahead

Work on 2003-2004 budget.
2001 Annual Report

Respectfully submitted by Kelli Frost

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